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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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July 26, 2007

TO: Regional Wildlife Advisory Councils  
Regional Supervisors  
FROM: Tom Aldrich  
Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Waterfowl Proclamation

The results of this year's North American Duck Breeding Pair Survey and May Pond Survey have been released and generally indicate improved habitat conditions and increased duck breeding populations from last year.

Overall, the total pond estimate (a measure of habitat quantity) was 15% higher than last year and 44% higher than the long-term average.

The total duck breeding population estimate increased 14% from 2006 and was 24% above the long-term average. Abundances of Northern shovelers, redheads, and canvasbacks were the highest ever recorded and green-winged teal estimates were at their second highest level. Scaup and pintail however remain well below their long-term averages. Mallard population estimates were up 10% from last year.

Canada goose breeding populations and production in Utah increased from last year but remain below the long-term average. The Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) continues to do well through out its entire range, and remains well above the population objective. The Division is not recommending any changes in goose seasons.

General season duck harvest frameworks are driven by the status of mallard breeding populations and May pond numbers. As mentioned earlier, these parameters increased over last year and will likely lead to another liberal season framework for our Flyway. Pintail and canvasback regulations are determined by species specific harvest strategies but final strategy details are not available at this time. My best guess is that the framework dates and bag limits for these two species will remain unchanged this year and will continue to be a 1 bird daily bag and a full 107 day season. If any changes occur, the Division will bring a modified set of regulation proposals to the RAC's.

Swan populations continue to do well and the Division is not recommending any changes to swan harvest regulations.

### ***Other Proposed Regulation Changes***

- **Change motor-less area on Public Shooting Grounds from the Pintail unit to ponds north of Highway 83.** Several years ago the Division created motor-less units on a couple of WMA's to provide a quality experience for hunters using canoes, kayaks or on foot. The Pintail unit has received very little use since the



restriction was implemented, and boat traffic has been greatly concentrated on the remaining units where motors are allowed. This change would help alleviate crowding, but would still provide areas where motorless hunters could avoid competition.

**Specific season and bag recommendations for the 2007 Utah waterfowl season are as follows:**

Ducks and coots:

<u>Framework</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Sept. 22-Jan. 27, 107 days	Zone 1 Oct. 6-Jan. 19 (106 days) Zone 2 Oct. 6-Jan. 19 (106 days) Bag same as maximum framework
7 ducks, no more than 2 hen mallards 1 pintail 2 redheads 1 canvasback 3 scaup Possession 2X daily bag 25 coots daily and in possession	3, or maximum bag allowed by framework  Bag same as framework

General Goose

<u>Framework</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Sept. 22-Jan 27, 107 days	Northern Zone Oct. 6-Jan 19 Rest of State Oct. 6-Oct. 18, Oct 27-Jan. 27
3 dark , 4 white Possession 2X daily bag	Same as maximum framework

Snipe

<u>Framework</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Sept. 1- Feb. 28, 107 days 8 daily, 16 poss.	Oct. 6-Jan. 19 (106 days) Same as maximum framework

Swan

<u>Framework</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Oct. 6-Dec. 9, Great Salt Lake Area 2,000 permits	Oct. 6-Dec. 9 Same as framework

Shooting Hours

<u>Framework</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
½ hr. b. sunrise-sunset	Same as framework except: Opening day 8:00 am GSL & Cache Co. Nov. 3, 8:00 am statewide

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Subject:

Waterfowl Youth Day

Framework

September Sept. 17- Feb. 11

½ hr. b. sunrise-sunset

Adult 18 or over must accompany

Ducks, coots, geese

Recommendation

September 29

8:00 am-sunset

Same as license req. Adult cannot hunt or  
possess a firearm

Falconry

Framework

Same as gun season

Recommendation

Same as gun season